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REV. SAMUEL OSGOOD, D.D., of New York, was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.

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### AUGUST MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday, Aug. 13, at noon, at their rooms in Tremont Street, Boston; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Government of Great Britain; the Society of Antiquaries, London; the Mercantile-Library Association of New York; the Trustees of the Free Public Library, New Bedford; Charles Stoddard, Esq.; H. B. Dawson, Esq.; Wm. J. Rhees, Esq.; Rev. E. A. Park; and from Messrs. Deane, Livermore, and Robbins, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from William Durrant Cooper, F.S.A., communicating his acceptance as a Corresponding Member of the Society. Rev. E. H. Sears was elected a Resident Member of the Society.

The President communicated a letter from the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, dated London, 20th April, 1857, announcing the gift by said Society of a large number of their publications; whereupon, it was voted that the thanks of this Society be returned, in due form, to the Society of Antiquaries, for their valuable donation.

The President, in a few appropriate remarks, an-

nounced the decease of Hon. John G. King, a Resident Member of the Society, and requested Judge White to prepare a Memoir of Mr. King for the Society's Collections.

The President communicated a letter from Wm. W. Parrott, Esq., in relation to the introduction of cotton into the United States. He also read a letter addressed to his father, the late Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop, by his nephew, J. A. Winthrop, Esq., together with another manuscript found amongst his father's papers, relating to the same subject; all of which were referred to the Standing Committee. They are here printed.

GLoucester, July, 1857.

DEAR SIR,—I do not know but that I am taking too much liberty in addressing a letter to you as President of the Massachusetts Historical Society; but having seen many statements, in the public newspapers, in relation to the crop of cotton, and the prospects, in future, of a supply, I have thought some circumstances in relation to its introduction into the United States, and which, I believe, are not generally known, might lead to further inquiries in relation to a plant that has within the last sixty years done so much to change the industry and commerce of Europe and the United States.

I first went to Georgia in the year 1798, mate of a freight-ship. At that time, a ship had never been wholly loaded with cotton in the United States; and we obtained fifty or sixty bales of cotton as a favor, to prevent the ship, laden with rice and tobacco, from being too deep in the water. I continued in this trade as long as I went to sea, which was till 1808. By this time, the cotton culture was very much extended; and most people thought the production would soon be beyond the consumption, and the planters would be ruined.

In 1807, I was in Liverpool, and transacted business with gentlemen connected with the house of Simpson and Davison, of London; and Mr. Davison, one of the partners, was frequently in Liverpool. In conversation one night, he related the early history of the cotton-trade. He said the first cotton of American growth that came from the United States and from Savannah came to their house in London, and was packed in rice-casks; the rice-plantations, or a part of them, having been converted into cotton culture, and they had then no cotton-bagging to put it in.

He said they advertised it; and soon some manufacturers from Glasgow came to London, and, after examining it, bought it at something like four shillings and sixpence sterling per pound. Soon after, they came again to London, and made particular inquiries where they got the cotton which they had purchased of them, as they had never seen any before so good: it was Sea-Island cotton. They told them it came from Georgia as an experiment. They wanted to know, if they had any more come, if they would give them the preference, and they would engage to take all they could procure; and to say to their friends in Georgia, that there was no fear of overstocking the market, as there would be a demand for all they could produce. And it has gone on increasing up to the present time.

This cotton was produced on the Island of Sapelo and the adjacent main land, sixty miles south of Savannah; and was made by Francis Levett and Thomas Young, for whose account it was sold.

To Mr. Levett belongs, I think, the credit of successfully introducing the cotton-plant into the United States. In the war of the Revolution, he was a royalist; was proscribed; and left, with his family and negroes, and went to Florida with the British. Subsequently he went to the Bahamas, and commenced the culture of cotton; but very soon the chenilla, or caterpillar, destroyed the cotton, and he was obliged to abandon the culture of it.

About this time he managed to get the sequestration taken off his property, and had liberty of returning with his family and negroes to Georgia. He soon after began the cultivation of cotton ; and his example soon stimulated others, and we now see the great results it has produced.

Mr. Levett died some time in 1805 or '6, as in 1807 I brought his widow and son from Liverpool to Savannah. From her I learnt many incidents of her husband's early history. He was born in Smyrna, in Turkey, and came to America as agent of the English factory at Smyrna, for the purpose of introducing a colony of Greeks into Florida ; I suppose, with a view of introducing the culture of the fig and orange. He selected a place, and called it New-Smyrna Inlet, and brought over his colony of Greeks ; but, from some cause or other, the project fell through, and he came to Georgia, and established himself as a rice-planter at Sapelo, and left the country in the war of the Revolution, as before stated. It is a little curious that this same New-Smyrna Inlet should have been selected for another experiment similar to Mr. Levett's, which also was abandoned.

Some time about the year 1803 or '4, Mr. William Ladd, of Portsmouth, N.H., afterwards known as the President of the Peace Society, in connection with a Mr. Meigs, of Connecticut, introduced a colony of German Redemptivers, so called, and established them at New-Smyrna Inlet. Very soon the Germans found they had made a hard bargain with Mr. Ladd, and refused to work any longer for him ; turned Roman Catholics, and claimed the protection of the then Spanish government of Florida : the consequence of which was, that the whole enterprise was abandoned. This I had from Mr. Ladd himself, with whom I was well acquainted.

It might be an amusement for some of the invalids, who visit Florida for health, to ascertain if there are any remnants of the Greek and German colonies left in the country.

Having been known to you for a long time, I have taken the

liberty of addressing you this letter, thinking some of the circumstances I have named may be useful at some future time in the investigation and history of the cotton-plant in the United States.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

WM. W. PARROTT.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

CHARLESTON, Oct. 15, 1839.

HON. T. L. WINTHROP.

MY DEAR UNCLE, — Your letter of 19th ultimo was duly received, and I have not lost a moment in trying to obtain the information requested ; but, in matters of such long standing, it is difficult to come at the facts correctly. After much inquiry of many of the oldest persons here, and having recourse also to several publications, I have arrived at the most accurate information that can be obtained in this city.

The introduction of cotton into Georgia was probably about the year 1785, as will be seen in the following letter of Thomas Spaulding, which I copied from the "South Agriculturist," published in this city in 1832 : —

*"Observations on the Introduction of Long Staple Cotton in Georgia,  
by Thomas Spaulding.\*"*

"DEAR SIR, — My friend Colonel Troup, of the Senate, has just enclosed me, as you will see, the conclusion of Mr. Holmes's speech, which contains a letter from Mr. Richard Leake, the father of Mrs. Spaulding, on the subject of cotton in the year 1788, addressed to the late General Porter, of Philadelphia, which the tariff-men had hunted up among his papers. This letter may be worth publishing in your book ; and I need only add to it, that I saw this field of cotton growing, and I believe it was the earliest long staple grown to that extent ; although Governor Tatnall and Mr. Nicholas Turnbull, of Savannah, and my own father, at St. Simon's, were all growing the Anguilla cotton, in 1785 and 1786, in small experimental quantities. Governor Tatnall received his

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\* This letter, you will perceive, relates to Long Staple Sea-Island cotton only.

seed from his father, then in the Bahamas; my father received his seed from Colonel Kelsale, his former associate in business; and Mr. Leake, from his brother-in-law, then resident in the Bahamas.

“Yours with esteem, &c.,

“ (Signed)

THOS. SPAULDING.”

These gentlemen are residents of Georgia. Mr. Tatnall and Nicholas Turnbull planted the seed, it is believed, on a plantation called Warsaw Island, in Savannah River.

I cannot ascertain by whom cotton was first planted, or when, in South Carolina; but, from various persons I have conversed with, it is evident that it was planted for domestic purposes long before the Revolution. Dr. Ramsay, in his “History of South Carolina,” states that in 1792 it was planted in considerable quantity for exportation. Mr. Samuel Maverick, who was a store-keeper in the upper part of King Street, and traded mostly with the people from the country, told me, many years since, that he received the first bale of cotton planted in this State, and that my late father shipped it to Liverpool. I could, perhaps, ascertain this fact by looking into old papers, which would occupy more time than I could well spare just now.

I enclose a copy of a statement of the imports of cotton from the United States into Liverpool in the years 1785, '86, '87, and '88. Much of the cotton planted at that early period went from North Carolina and Virginia.

Williams's “Florida,” published in 1837 in New York (see pp. 188, 189, 190, and 191), has reference to the settlement of the colony of fifteen hundred Minorcans, Greeks, and Italians. The writer speaks in severe terms of Dr. Turnbull's treatment of them; on account of which they left the settlement in a body, and went to St. Augustine. This fact is corroborated by many whom I have conversed with. He also gives a very minute description of the location of the land, and of its being very valuable.

Carey published, I think, in 1791, an account also of this colony. I have not been able to find the work, entitled "American Museum, or Columbian Magazine," in which he speaks in severe terms of the treatment of Dr. Turnbull.

I had a conversation with a gentleman who married a daughter of the late Judge Bay, whose wife was a Turnbull. He gave me the enclosed memorandum.

If I should collect any further information on the subject, that I think may be of use to you, I will forward it. Hoping this will find you and your family enjoying good health,

I remain, dear sir, your nephew,

JOS. A. WINTHROP.

In the year 1770, Dr. Andrew Turnbull arrived in Florida with a colony of Minorcans, Greeks, some Italians, and others, inhabitants of islands in the Mediterranean. The doctor did not intend that the number of emigrants should exceed seven or eight hundred: but such was the wretched condition of many of those unfortunate people, that they begged and prayed to be taken on any terms, and actually thronged into the transports without registry; so that, instead of seven or eight hundred, on arrival at Augustine they numbered between fifteen and sixteen hundred. The settlement of New Smyrna was about seventy miles from Augustine. Shortly after their arrival there, the Greeks began to get dissatisfied, although laborious pursuits had not yet commenced; and, whilst Dr. Turnbull was absent at Augustine, the Greeks revolted, *cut off the ears and fingers* of a Mr. Tucker, who acted as principal director, and, with two others who were in authority, put all to death. Dr. Turnbull, being in Augustine, applied to Governor Grant, who had the ringleaders taken up, tried, and hung. Mrs. Turnbull herself, being of Greek origin, tried very hard with Governor Grant to have pardon extended; but he refused, saying the example of pardon, under such circumstances, would



ruin the undertaking at once. Such were the barbarity and bad habits of the Greeks, that they not only destroyed life, but every thing else as far as lay in their power, — wines, oil, fruit, and all other articles which had been laid in for support until a crop of provisions could be made. After the affair of the Greeks had subsided, all went on well for nearly ten years (the time of their indentures); when, by the advice of Governor Touyn, who had succeeded Grant, they one and all went off in a body to St. Augustine, leaving all their implements of husbandry behind them. Dr. Turnbull was at the time in London. Having no employment in Augustine, many of them went begging about the streets in a wretched condition, and several died of disease and want. Governor Touyn made himself very unpopular, nay, obnoxious, with the people of Florida, and was the cause of breaking up the settlement, when the emigrants had served out all their time except nine months. There never were any Moors brought out for the settlement; but Dr. Turnbull, finding that the low and swampy lands did not agree with the health of the white men, purchased some thirty odd negroes to cultivate the low-lands. There were upwards of five hundred comfortable dwellings and other houses on the settlement. Nicholas Turnbull was the eldest son of Dr. Turnbull, and was supposed to be the first person who planted cotton in Georgia. Where the seed came from is not now known. The first trial of the cotton was, it is supposed, some two or three miles from Savannah, at Warsaw Island, on the river Tybee. The late R. J. Turnbull was the next to John Turnbull, youngest of the family. It is supposed that Governor Touyn became very obnoxious to the Turnbull family in consequence of their not paying any attention to his wife, who was the *wash-woman* of that family, and brought out from Europe in that capacity by them.

The following is an account of the cotton imported into Liverpool from the United States of America:—

		Bags.	
1785.			
Jan.	Diana, at Charleston . . . . .	1	
Feb.	Torno, at New York . . . . .	1	
June.	Grange, at Philadelphia . . . . .	3	
1786.		—	5
May.	Thomas, at Charleston . . . . .	2	
June.	Juno, at Charleston . . . . .	4	
1787.		—	6
April.	John, at Philadelphia; J. Jackson . . . . .	6	
June.	Wilson, at New York; Ashfield . . . . .	9	
June.	Grange, at Philadelphia; three importers . . . . .	9	
Aug.	Henderson, at Charleston; J. Coult . . . . .	40	
Dec.	John, at Philadelphia; G. Goring . . . . .	37	
	Order . . . . .	7	
1788.		—	108
Jan.	Mersey, at Charleston; P. Marrow . . . . .	1	
Jan.	Grange, at Philadelphia; G. Goring . . . . .	5	
June.	John, at Philadelphia; T. Green . . . . .	30	
July.	Harriet, at New York; Backhouse and Son . . . . .	62	
	Grange, at Philadelphia; Duckun and Party . . . . .	60	
	Ashfield . . . . .	27	
	Order . . . . .	16	
	Peel and Co., 4; Rathbone and Co., 3; Nerral, 1 . . . . .	8	
	Polly, at Charleston; Goring . . . . .	42	
	Jurdet, 26; and L. and I., 5 . . . . .	31	
		—	282
	Four years' import . . . . .		401

General Payer, a proprietor of extensive estates in Barbadoes, took the seed from thence into Georgia, *soon after the peace* following the American war, which was the beginning of the growth of cotton in the United States.